



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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**BARRETT, ALDERMEN BLAST COUNTY'S
"GO-NOWHERE" BUS TERMINAL IDEA**
*City officials call on County to end to 16-year transit improvement delay
and improve area transportation for workers and residents*

MILWAUKEE -- Mayor Tom Barrett along with Aldermen Robert Bauman, Michael Murphy and Terry Witkowski came out against a recent proposal by County Board members to use \$91.5 million in unspent federal funds to build another bus terminal.

Last month, Mayor Barrett with the support of Common Council members introduced a Comprehensive Transportation Plan which tied together service at the new Amtrak Intermodal station and the proposed KRM commuter rail line to existing and improved County bus service and a downtown streetcar known as the Circulator. Barrett's plan was designed within the spending limits of the already available federal money along with a limited required local match.

"This proposal is a colossal waste of an opportunity to improve our transit system which is currently in a death spiral," said Barrett. "A major bus terminal already exists at the Downtown Transit Center south of O'Donnell Park, not to mention the Intermodal Station being built on the Amtrak site right now.

Barrett continued, "To build another 'bus barn' would be redundant and unnecessary. We need to focus on connecting workers to jobs and modernizing and improving our transit system in this region if we are going to increase ridership and get people where they need to be. To throw away tens of millions of dollars on an unneeded garage would be a tremendous waste."

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In 1991, Milwaukee received \$289 million in funds from the Federal Transportation Authority for capital improvements to improve transportation. The money, which can not be used for operating costs, has gone unspent since then because of a lack of agreement on how to do so.

Alderman Michael Murphy added, "Given the County Executive's history of cutting transit, this proposal does not make sense. Milwaukee's citizens need improved transit options for work and play, not just another building."

Alderman Terry Witkowski concluded, "If we are going to move Milwaukee forward, improving transportation service and the type of service options makes more sense than building another empty transportation facility like the one downtown."